

REMARKS

New claims 18-30 are based on original claims 1-13, but rewritten from method to apparatus format.

In response to the requirement to restrict prosecution to one of the inventions of:

Group I. claims 1-13; or

Group II. claims 14-17

The applicant selects the prosecution of Group II claims 14-17 at this time.

According to MPEP 803 "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." In this case there is no serious burden on the examiner to examine all the groups of claims because the search for the selected claims will be sufficient for the examination of the non-selected claims as well as the selected claims.

Thus the examiner should examine all the claims in the application.

The claims are definite and distinguished from the citations and Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of all the claims.

Please charge any fee deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

By Michael E. Belk  
Michael E. Belk, Reg. 33,357  
Senior Patent Counsel  
(914) 333-9643  
April 20, 2004